

Remarks

Claims 57-67 are now pending in this application. Applicants have cancelled all pending claims and presented new claims 57-67 to clarify the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner objected to the numbering of the claims. Applicants submit that the numbering of the claims is proper due to the cancellation of previous independent claims and addition of new independent claims. Nevertheless, Applicants have cancelled all claims and renumbered the claims starting with 57, which would have been the next numbered claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

The Examiner objected to the amendment to the specification as introducing new matter. The amendment to the specification is necessary as a result of a translational error. The present application claims priority to a Finnish patent application filed in the Finnish language. In other words, the filing language of the PCT application was Finnish.

The Finnish original text of the PCT application and page 10, line 25 of the priority application includes the Finnish word "booria", wherein the suffix "-a" combined with the basic form "boori-" indicates a grammatical partitive case. As can be verified from any comprehensive Finnish-English dictionary, the correct translation of the Finnish word "boori" is "boron". Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amendment do not represent new matter and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 52, new renumbered as claim 57, has been amended to recite that the gas flow is mixed with at least one oxidant gas after the first reactant and the second reactant have been mixed together. This amendment is supported by the specification at page 7, lines 30-34, which describe that the base materials and dopants may be guided to the reactor "mixed together". Additionally, page 8, lines 19-22, describe how the gases of the mixed gas flow may be oxidized in the reactor. Furthermore, Fig. 1 shows that the reactants (items B and D) may be mixed together before they are oxidized by mixing oxidative gas (item O) and the reactant gases together.

The Examiner stated that claims 30 and 53 are allowable. Applicants have rewritten the independent claims to recite only subject matter that the Examiner indicated is allowable. All dependent claims depend from one of the new independent claims. Accordingly, all claims recite allowable subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 37 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 4,336,049 to Takahashi. The Examiner rejected claims 26, 28, 32-36, 52, 54, and 55 as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,260,816 to Edagawa in view of U.S. patent 5,961,682 to Lee and U.S. patent 4,501,602 to Miller.

These rejections are no longer relevant since only claims that the Examiner indicates recited allowable are now pending. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based upon the cited references.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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